

SECRETEXCOM 82-7052
3 November 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Committee Members

FROM: [REDACTED]

Executive Assistant to the DDCI

SUBJECT: Minutes of 22 October 1982 Executive Committee Meeting: Information Handling Strategic Plan

1. The Executive Committee met on 22 October 1982 to consider the draft Strategic Plan for Information Handling Systems. [REDACTED] (ExDir) chaired the session; participants included Messrs. Hineman (DDS&T); Stein (DDO); Fitzwater (DDA); Kerr (ADDI); Taylor (IG); and Childs (Comptroller). [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] complimented [REDACTED] (IHSA) on his staff's excellent treatment of a complicated subject and commended all those in various components who had participated in the project. [REDACTED] reviewed the background of the draft plan, emphasizing that it should be an Agency plan, not just an IHSA plan. He noted the plan did not address priorities in programs or budgets and called for minimal resources during the early years. He emphasized the importance of striving for a homogeneous environment, which would be easier now, at the start of the development of the next generation of computers.

[REDACTED] requested the Committee's commitment to the plan, particularly the goal for office automation. He suggested an Agency-wide working group be established to develop a detailed plan for exploiting and integrating major office automation functions. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] dispelled an OMB concern that the Agency might be moving into automation too fast. Acknowledging security concerns about networking computers, he emphasized that nothing in the plan would change the existing operational environment. The proposed network would provide the technical capability to grow and support Agency activities better. It would maintain segregation of the DDO computer center and include a new, separate S&T facility. If the plan were approved, [REDACTED] noted guidance would be required on how to implement it and how to reconcile it with the budget. [REDACTED]

4. In response to [REDACTED] request for comments, Mr. Kerr observed that the proposed plan seemed to go beyond what the DDI thought was required. His directorate preferred a more incremental approach, modifying information handling systems as users became more experienced with SAFE. [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED]

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85 percent of the plan consisted of systems the Agency had already approved. He emphasized the importance of building a total system over time. Mr. Taylor observed that advances in technology require more longer term planning in the information handling arena. He endorsed the proposed plan. []

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5. Mr. Stein noted that compartmentation was basic to espionage and expressed concern about the concept of "interoperability." If the latter referred to compatible equipment with retention of compartmentation, he had no problem. If all computer centers were to be connected, he objected because of security concerns. [] noted his understanding that the proposed plan would continue the current practice of letting DDO tap outside computers but not permitting anyone outside of DDO to tap into its computers. []

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6. Mr. Hineman said that the plan addressed his directorate's needs. He expressed concern, however, that security access controls would not be resolved early enough in the proposed implementation. [] explained access controls would be resolved at the same time that terminals were procured. He highlighted recent technical breakthroughs in this area that might be applicable. Mr. Taylor stated that security was more of a management issue than a technical issue. []

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7. Mr. Kerr generated a discussion about the possibility of standardized terminals meeting individual component needs. [] explained that the next generation of terminals had a variety of capabilities that could be tailored to all requirements. Returning to the security issue, [] (D/Communications) noted that existing computer systems were already "interoperable." He pointed out that the capability to interconnect computers did not have to be exercised. Mr. Fitzwater agreed the plan did not include any more networking for the DDO than it already had. He then generally endorsed the plan. He emphasized that security would depend on physical and personnel security. He said that his directorate required interoperability. He doubted that the Agency could commit the resources required to implement the plan. [] commented that significant resources had already been committed in the FY-83 and FY-84 programs. []

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8. Mr. Childs characterized information handling as a critical issue that senior managers had walked away from several times. He acknowledged that the security concern was a valid one that needed careful attention. Generally, however, he found the plan "about right" and believed it established an appropriate framework to work toward. []

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9. [] suggested that members think about the plan some more and be prepared to discuss it further, particularly its

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organizational implications, at a future executive session. He then adjourned the meeting.

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